

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with the above-identified national stage patent application, under 35 U.S.C. §371. Applicants are requesting amendment of the claims as set forth in the foregoing listing, prior to calculation of the filing fee. The amendments to the claims remove multiple dependencies of the claims.

With the claims as amended, Applicants respectfully request that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and early notification of allowability is respectfully requested. Should any questions arise in connection with the foregoing, please contact Thomas L. Lockhart at the telephone number of (616) 336-6000.

Respectfully submitted,
SJOERD DE GEUS and GIJSBERTUS JOHANNES
VERDUIJN

Date January 7, 2005 By Thomas L. Lockhart
Thomas L. Lockhart, Reg. No. 29,324
VARNUM, RIDDERING, SCHMIDT & HOWLETT
Bridgewater Place
Post Office Box 352
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-0352
(616) 336-6000

#1075831